AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

At paragraph [0097], please amend the paragraph as follows:

[0097] In aspects where the detection technique is Raman spectroscopy, especially SERS, non-limiting examples of Raman-active signal molecules that can be used include TRIT (tetramethyl rhodamine isothiol), NBD (7-nitrobenz-2-oxa-1,3-diazole), Texas Red dye, phthalic acid, terephthalic acid, isophthalic acid, cresyl fast violet, cresyl blue violet, brilliant cresyl blue, para-aminobenzoic acid, erythrosine, biotin, digoxigenin, 5-carboxy-4',5'-dichloro-2',7'-dimethoxy fluorescein, TET (6-carboxy-2',4,7,7'-tetrachlorofluorescein), HEX (6-carboxy-2',4,4',5',7,7'-hexachlorofluorescein), Joe (6-carboxy4',5'-dichloro-2',7'-dimethoxyfluorescein) 5-carboxy-2',4',5',7'-tetrachlorofluorescein, 5-carboxyfluorescein, 5-carboxy rhodamine, Tamra (tetramethylrhodamine), 6-carboxyrhodamine, Rox (carboxy-X-rhodamine), R6G (Rhodamine 6G), phthalocyanines, azomethines, cyanines (e.g. Cy3, Cy3.5, Cy5), xanthines, succinylfluoresceins, N,N-diethyl4-(5'-azobenzotriazolyl)-phenylamine and aminoacridine. Furthermore, the Raman active signal molecules can include those that have been identified for use in gene probes (See e.g., Graham et al., Chem. Phys. Chem., 2001; Isola et al., Anal. Chem., 1998). In one aspect, the Raman active signal molecules include those disclosed in Kneipp et al., Chem Reviews (1999). These and other Raman signal molecules can be obtained from commercial sources (e.g., Molecular Probes, Eugene, Oreg.). Furthermore, Raman active signal molecules include composite organic-inorganic nanoparticles (See Su et al., U.S. Ser. No. 10/748,336, filed Dec. 29, 2003 entitled "Composite Organic-Inorganic Nanoparticles and methods for use thereof").